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But I may mention for the information of hon. Members of this House that it is proposed to give the power to such local bodies as wish to levy tolls."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask whether the opinion of local bodies was not in favour of levy of tolls on motor vehicles also?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Some have expressed their opinion on that point but others have not."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Is the hon. Member aware of the strength of feeling in the country against the levy of tolls on non-motor vehicles?" 11-15 a.m.

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"There are differences of opinion, but, as I stated already, it is proposed to leave the matter to the local bodies."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"What is the opinion of the Government, Sir?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"The opinion of the Government is that in the present financial difficulties, in order to restore the financial equilibrium of the local bodies, legislation is necessary."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Will the Government make it obligatory on district boards to levy the tolls?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I cannot give a definite reply to that; I will have to consider the point."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Are we to understand that the Government propose to undertake this legislation without any idea as to the number of non-motor vehicles plying on the roads?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"They have a rough idea; what I stated was that it is not possible to give the exact figures."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Are the Government aware of the fact that the incidence of the levy of tolls on non-motor vehicles will fall on the agriculturists?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Not in all cases."

Road Development Schemes.

* 319 *Q.*—Mr. W. W. LADDEN: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether in view of the favourable offer made by the hon. Member for Finance of the Government of India at the Road-Rail Conference in April, for the financing of road development schemes by means of loans, the Government were conducting surveys in the Presidency so as to have road schemes ready at hand before the next Road-Rail Conference which it is understood has been convened to consider such schemes;

(*b*) if not, why not;

(*c*) whether they are giving consideration to the subject of co-ordination of means of communication within the Presidency;

(*d*) if the answer to clause (*c*) is in the affirmative, how far does the co-ordinative machinery contemplated by them accord with the proposal of the Simla Road Conference for a Provincial Board of Communications;

(*e*) their attitude towards the scheme of a Central Board of Communications outlined at the Simla Road-Rail Conference; and

(*f*) what steps they propose to take towards commuting the various taxes on road transport into one Provincial tax?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) & (*e*) The Government have not yet arrived at any definite decision in regard to the Boards of Communications.

(*f*) They do not propose to take any steps for the present.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"May I know the approximate date by which consideration by the Government would result in any decision?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"It is an important question and I am afraid it may not be possible for me to give any exact date."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"Then what is it that the Government are actually doing now?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"They are examining the various proposals."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"Will the hon. Minister kindly state briefly and roughly what are the proposals of the Government?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"Some of the proposals are the co-ordination of road and rail traffic, the laying out of new roads connecting the interior parts of districts, etc."

Khan Bahadur Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur:—"May I know whether the schemes will be ready before the next meeting of the Road-Rail Conference?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"I do not know when the next meeting comes off."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I ask whether the Government are not aware that any undertaking of development of roads would give relief to the unemployed in this Presidency?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"To some extent it will relieve unemployment, but Government also have to take into consideration the financial implications."

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Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—" Do the Government intend to constitute a Board of Communications? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" They are considering the proposal."

Basis underlying the allotment of petrol-tax to the various districts.

* 320 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the basis on which the petrol-tax which makes the Road Development Fund is allotted to various districts?

A.—The subventions received by this Government from the Central Road Development Fund are distributed as grants to district boards for such Capital Works on trunk roads as may be approved by the Government of India. The allotment is made with reference to the merits of individual works and not with reference to the districts in which they are carried out.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know whether the Government examine the requirements of each district before making allotments from this fund to the different districts? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" All the schemes submitted will be duly considered."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know whether the Government have considered the desirability of fixing a basis for distributing amounts from this fund to all the districts? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" As was stated yesterday, the Government do consider the question of distributing to all districts, according to the urgency of the works."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—" Will the Government be pleased to supply a list of the schemes which have been submitted for consideration? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" I have no objection to give the information to the hon. Gentleman."

Direct recruitment of District Board Engineers with special reference to communal representation.

* 321 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether, with a view to the direct recruitment of District Board Engineers, the Government called for the recommendations from the Madras Services Commission;

(*b*) whether the Services Commission were asked to have regard to the claims of the various communities in making their recommendations for the purpose;

(*c*) the names of the persons recommended by the Commission and the communities to which they belong;